

## USES OF SIMPLE AND CONTINUOUS TENSES

### SIMPLE PRESENT TENSE

- 1.- When we talk about a present moment: *I'm in Albacete now.*
- 2.- We use it to talk about things in general: *I have got two brothers.*
- 3.- To say that something happens all the time or is a habit (every day life): *I smoke.*
- 4.- When something is always true: *Madrid is the capital of Spain.*
- 5.- We can use it with a future meaning when we're talking about planned actions, timetables or programs:  
*The train leaves London at night.*

### PRESENT CONTINUOUS TENSE

- 1.- When we talk about something which is happening at the time of speaking:  
*It's raining now* (activity in progress)
- 2.- When we talk about a period about the present:  
*You are working hard today / This week I'm reading an interesting book.*
- 3.- For eventual actions:  
*I'm living here until I can find a better flat.*
- 4.- When we talk about changing situations:  
*The population is rising very fast.*
- 5.- When we talk about what we have already arranged to do (planned intention)  
*What are you doing tomorrow? I'm going to the cinema.*
- 6.- For immediate future:  
*Be careful! The ice is going to break.*

### SIMPLE PAST TENSE

- 1.- It's used when the past happening is related to a definite time in the past, which we may call "**then**" (it started in the past and finished in the past): *He finished school 15 years ago.*
- 2.- To organize several actions in the past (one after another): *She opened the door, looked at the man and said....*

### PAST CONTINUOUS TENSE

- 1.- We use it to say that someone is in the middle of doing something at a certain time in the past. The action or situation had already started before, but it hadn't finished. If the action is interrupted by a complete action, in this case we have to use a verb in simple past.  
*Tom **was cooking** the dinner when the telephone **rang**./Tom **cooked** the dinner* (he was and finished it).
- 2.- For two incomplete actions taking place simultaneously: *Peter was listening to music while Tom was cooking.*

### VERBS WHICH CANNOT BE USED IN CONTINUOUS FORMS:

- 1.- VERBS OF OPINION: *think* (when it means "creer", because when it means "pensar" it's possible to use in a continuous way) - *believe* - *know* - *forget* - *recognize* - *suppose* - *understand* - *remember* - *realize* - *imagine* - *mean*.
- 2.- VERBS OF FEELING: *want* - *like* - *love* - *hate* - *prefer* - *wish*.
- 3.- VERBS OF PERCEPTION: *see* (when it means "ver", but you can use it in continuous tenses when it means "reunirse con"[1]) - *hear* - *smell* - *taste*.
- 4.- VERBS OF RELATION: *have* (when it means "poseer", but when it means "experimentar", you can use it in continuous forms [2]) - *own* - *contain* - *cost* - *sound* - *seem* - *belong* - *include* - *weigh* - *appear* - *need*.

[1] *I'm seeing a friend tomorrow.* [2] *Susan is having a lot of problems.*